

Claims:

1. A method of providing subscribers with communication services in accordance with their agreements with a service provider, the method comprises:

5 determining a plurality of subscribers to be connected to the service provider via a distribution unit located in an access network;

determining a default advanced broadband technology (DABT) for the distribution unit;

10 in the distribution unit, providing a plurality of communication devices to reserve for each of the plurality of subscribers, irrespective of their agreements reached with the service provider, an individual communication link for supplying broadband communication services based on said DABT; and

15 enabling each of the plurality of subscribers to receive services in accordance with their respective agreements with the service provider.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said DABT is VDSL (Very high data rate Digital Subscriber Line).

3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one of the subscribers is entitled to narrowband services only.

20 4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising preventing the use, by a particular subscriber, of communication services not included in the agreement between said particular subscriber and the service provider.

25 5. A method of providing a narrowband subscriber with communication services in a converged broadband and narrowband communications access network, the method comprises establishing for said narrowband subscriber a communication link capable of carrying broadband communication services, while preventing the use by said

subscriber of all communication services not included in an agreement between said subscriber and a service provider.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein said communication link is being established between the narrowband subscriber and a communication device installed in a distribution unit and supporting said broadband communication services.

7. The method according to Claim 4 or 6, wherein said preventing is performed by remotely configuring the communication device located at the distribution unit and associated with said particular subscriber, where the configuration is carried out from a Local Exchange connected to the distribution unit.

8. The method according to Claim 4, 5, 6 or 7, wherein said preventing is performed by providing at least one of the subscribers with a Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) unit specifically configured to provide only services in accordance with the subscriber's agreement with the service provider.

9. The method according to Claim 7 or 8, further comprising a step of reconfiguring according to an updated subscriber's agreement with the service provider.

10. A communication service distribution unit for use in a converged broadband and narrowband access network, adapted to provide a technologically advanced broadband communication service, as a minimal default communication service, to substantially all subscribers associated with the distribution unit, wherein said subscribers include at least one narrowband subscriber.

11. The distribution unit according to Claim 10, adapted to provide a more technologically advanced communication service to a limited number of the subscribers.

12. A communication service distribution unit for use in a converged
5 narrowband and broadband access network, comprising at least one communication device capable of providing a broadband communication service and associated with a narrowband subscriber.

13. The distribution unit according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said broadband communication service is a technologically
10 advanced type of communication service selected from a non-exhaustive list comprising: ADSL (Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line), VDSL (Very high data rate DSL), SHDSL (Single line High bit-rate DSL).

14. The distribution unit according to any one of Claims 10 to 13, comprising a plurality of communication devices capable of providing
15 one and the same technologically advanced broadband communication service to all broadband and narrowband subscribers associated with the unit.

15. A service filtering means operative to derive, from a technologically advanced broadband communication service reserved for
20 a particular subscriber at a distribution unit in an access network, only communication services agreed between said particular subscriber and a service provider.

16. The service filtering means according to Claim 15, being configurable.

25 17. The service filtering means according to Claim 16, remotely configurable and associated with a communication device providing said broadband communication service at the distribution unit.

18. The service filtering means according to any one of Claims 15 to 17, comprising a Customer's Premises Equipment (CPE) unit for use in said subscriber's premises.

19. The distribution unit according to any one of claims 10 to 14, comprising the service filtering means according to Claim 17.

20. A set of access network equipment, comprising at least one communication services distribution unit according to any one of Claims 10 to 14 and at least one blocking means according to any one of Claims 15 to 18.

21. A system for providing broadband and narrowband subscribers with communication services in accordance with their agreements with a service provider, the system comprises a distribution unit accommodating at least one communication device operative to provide a broadband communication service and connected to a narrowband subscriber via a service filtering means; the service filtering means being operative to prevent the use by the narrowband subscriber of communication services not included in an agreement between said narrowband subscriber and the service provider.

22. The system according to Claim 21, wherein the service filtering means are located at the narrowband subscriber's premises.

23. The system according to Claim 21 or 22, wherein the service filtering means are located in the distribution unit and associated with the suitable communication device in the distribution unit.

24. The system according to any one of claims 21, 22, 23, wherein the system comprises a Central Office being in communication with said distribution unit, and the Central Office comprises means for remotely configuring and reconfiguring the service filtering means.

25. The system according to any one of claims 21 to 24, further comprising means for detecting use of services exceeding those allowed according to particular agreements between the service provider and the subscribers.